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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development
(Item 4 (b))

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 11 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2008/5).

2. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report of the Secretary-General and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Much appreciation was expressed for the informative and comprehensive nature of the report. Strong statements of support were made for the New Partnership for Africa's Development in particular and Africa's development in general. There was acknowledgement of the impressive work carried out by the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD, as well as the increased level of cooperation among the various entities. Also, several delegates underlined the need to further strengthen inter-agency cooperation and

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coordination, to ensure effective use of resources, and to improve communication among the organizations.

4. It was emphasized that the support of the United Nations system for NEPAD must yield results-based action. In that regard, it was reiterated that more emphasis should be placed on evaluating the impact of the various activities of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD.

5. It was noted that NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism reflected priorities of Africa. In that connection, the need to further align the activities of the United Nations system entities with NEPAD/African Union Commission priorities was emphasized. Several delegates acknowledged the importance of Africa's ownership and leadership, combined with international partnerships, as a key to progress in the implementation of NEPAD.

6. Several delegates expressed concern that Africa was not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. While acknowledging encouraging progress in a number of areas, delegates drew attention to significant challenges that remained in many African countries, among them the need for more capacity-building and greater resource mobilization. Success stories across the continent needed to be scaled up. The need to support regional integration in Africa and build the capacity of the regional economic communities was highlighted. Concern was also expressed about the slow progress in the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

7. A number of speakers emphasized the need to address new and emerging challenges facing Africa, such as the food crisis, the energy crisis and climate change. In particular, the food crisis was highlighted as a challenge that could hamper development efforts in all areas. It was suggested that the United Nations system should show increased adaptability and flexibility in its support for Africa, taking into account global developments and General Assembly resolutions.

8. Several delegates emphasized the link between peace and development. In that regard, the efforts of the African Union to enhance peace and security in the continent were commended.

9. Speakers expressed their expectations that the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs planned for 22 September 2008 together with the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals planned for 25 September 2008 would identify the way forward towards better addressing the challenges facing Africa.

10. Answering a question regarding the link between NEPAD and the proposals of the MDG Africa Steering Group on food security, the Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa elaborated on the main pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

11. Responding to a question regarding the report's recommendation on common funding for new programmes, the Director noted that modalities for common funding of new joint activities would be negotiated by the organizations and departments themselves.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee welcomed the annual report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development.**

13. **The Committee urged the United Nations system and relevant regional organizations, in collaboration with the joint African Union/NEPAD Secretariat, to continue to fully support action programmes designed to sustain the implementation of the priorities identified by the leadership of the continent.**

14. **The Committee requested the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union, the NEPAD Secretariat and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of NEPAD and to place greater emphasis on dissemination of its activities in support of NEPAD and monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness.**

15. **The Committee recognized the support provided by the United Nations system for NEPAD, covering nine thematic clusters corresponding broadly to the priorities of NEPAD, which included activities such as providing technical assistance for institutional development, capacity-building and project development, mobilization of resources and advocacy.**

16. **The Committee acknowledged the important role played by the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the NEPAD Secretariat in implementing NEPAD objectives and in that regard called for greater United Nations inter-agency collaboration to ensure that NEPAD was mainstreamed in all the normative and operational activities of the United Nations system so as to strengthen the Secretariats of both the African Union Commission and NEPAD through institutional and technical capacity-building.**

17. **The Committee urged the United Nations system to develop an integrated framework for supporting the African Union Commission. It recognized that peace and development were interlinked and urged the United Nations system to enhance the support that it provided to the African Union Commission in the areas of economic and social development, including regional integration, as well as peace and security, in a balanced and equitable manner. In that regard, existing mechanisms for consultation between the United Nations system and the African Union Commission should be further strengthened so as to enhance and broaden the support provided to the Commission.**

18. **The Committee recognized the multidisciplinary nature of the development challenges facing Africa, and called upon entities of the United Nations system to further harmonize their policies and support so that their collective and concerted actions could create synergies across thematic clusters.**

19. **The Committee stressed that improved cross-sectoral collaboration could help in mainstreaming economic, financial and social development issues within the context of cross-cutting ones.**

20. **The Committee underlined the importance of the initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years and emphasized in that regard the need for United Nations system coordination with such initiatives in support of NEPAD.**

21. **The Committee stressed that the merger of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should not undermine the United Nations system's focus on and support for NEPAD programmes.**